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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D C 20554
December 18, 2003

Mr. George B. Hutchison
11224 S.E. 320th Street
Auburn, Washington 98092-4832

Re: RM-10765

Dear Mr. Hutchison:

This is in response to your petition for rulemaking filed June 23, 2003. Specifically, you request that the Commission establish a new service, styled as the Homeland Public Press and Information Widespread Service, that would broadcast information over numerous frequencies in the high frequency ("HF") range (3-30 MHz bands) to the general public of the United States. You propose that information would be broadcast on an *ad hoc*, non-continuous basis under technical and operational rules similar to those used by the amateur radio service under Part 97 of the Commission's rules, yet you do not propose that this service be designated as an amateur service. You indicate that the service would be an alternate source of news and information conventionally provided by AM/FM/TV broadcast services. As one benefit of this service, you state that those in remote locations could be kept up to date with regards to news, information, weather, and other items of interest in printed format.

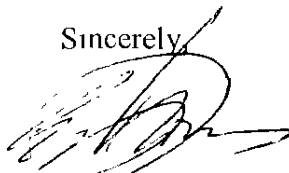
Although the general concept of providing an alternative source of information through text-based radio transmissions to people in remote locations may have some merit, we find that certain aspects of your petition are counter to established Commission policy for the HF range and this petition also lacks sufficient information in several areas of concern.

Initially, we observe that the HF frequencies requested for domestic broadcast operations are inappropriate for such use. Specifically, these frequencies are currently allocated for Federal Government and non-Federal Government fixed, mobile and maritime mobile operations and no broadcast allocation exists either in the United States Table of Frequency Allocations or the International Table of Frequency Allocations. Your filing does not address how interference issues would be resolved between your proposed service and other services in the frequency bands. Further, Section 2.102(h) of our rules outlines special provisions for the use of these HF frequencies, which generally reserves their use for communications during times of emergency and communications important to the national interest when other means of telecommunications are unavailable. We find that *ad hoc* broadcast operations on these frequencies could obstruct emergency communications during disasters or interfere with safety related services currently authorized to use these frequencies.

In addition, the propagation characteristics of HF signals are ideal for intercontinental communications and would not be appropriate for broadcast services intended for a domestic audience. Your petition does not explore whether frequencies other than HF frequencies are more appropriate for broadcast transmissions only intended for reception within the United States. Because signals transmitted in the HF range can be received outside the United States, an international broadcast allocation would be needed in the International Table of Frequency Allocations. Your petition does not address how the proposed service would operate in the absence of an international broadcast allocation in these bands or how international coordination of the proposed domestic use of these HF frequencies would be accomplished.

Based on the above, we conclude that the petition does not warrant consideration because the proposal is inconsistent with Commission policy regarding the use of HF frequencies and has the potential to cause interference to existing services. Accordingly, under the authority contained in Sections 0.241(e) and 1.401(e) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.241(e) and § 1.401(e), the petition for rulemaking is dismissed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmond J. Thomas', is written over a horizontal line.

Edmond J. Thomas

Chief

Office of Engineering and Technology